

# **Juvenile Justice Advisory Council**

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning  
515-242-5823

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Polk County River Place  
2309 Euclid Avenue  
Conference Room #2  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
June 3, 2010

- Present:** Jim Morris (Presiding), Dr. Geoff Abelson, Andrew Allen, Christy Burkhardt, Elia Cardenas, Todd Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Karen Jones, Paul Kraus, Tony Reed, Steve Smith, Linda Svoboda, John Wauters
- Staff:** Paul Stageberg, Kile Beisner, Dave Kuker, Scott Musel, Julie Rinker, Annelise Plooster
- Absent:** Verne Armstrong, Stephen Clarke, Wayne Clinton, Nicole Engelbart, Rita Ferneau, Molly McAndrew, Lori Rinehart, Rachelle Schrader, Jackson Selk, Carl Smith, Marvin Spencer

### **I. Call to Order**

Rev. Jim Morris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

#### **Changes and Approval of Agenda – Action**

The Agenda was amended to include the addition of the State Auditor's Report following the Division Update. Introductions were made at this time.

### **II. Approve Minutes – Action**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting was made by John Wauters, seconded by Christy Burkhardt. The motion was unanimously approved.**

### **III. Division Update**

Paul Stageberg provided the following information regarding activities within CJJP.

- Eric Sage retired in May. Because a replacement will not be hired, duties will be absorbed by other CJJP personnel.
- The Division's budget is in good shape for the final month of the fiscal year.
- CJJP has requested \$1,000,000 in Congressionally-directed funding to be distributed to juvenile courts for best practices programming. Stageberg will update the Council once information is received.

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Lucas State Office Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

<http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/cjpp/index.html>

- As a result of legislation passed during the last Session regarding additional responsibilities of the CJJP Advisory Council and the addition of a Public Safety Advisory Board, two additional research positions will be posted in July.
- Scott Musel reported that both adult and youth openings exist on the Council. He acknowledged Sheriff Todd Johnson, Jack Selk, Steve Smith, and Elia Cardenas and thanked them for their efforts and support over the years. New member training will be held in the Fall. All members were invited to attend.

#### **IV. Auditor's Report**

Scott Musel reviewed an audit of the Department of Human Services, Department of Inspections & Appeals, and the Juvenile Detention Reimbursement Fund. The report indicates that more oversight is needed regarding use of the Fund. Money collected by the Department of Transportation for renewal of suspended licenses goes to the Juvenile Detention Reimbursement Fund to refund detention facilities for a portion of their operating expenses. Musel offered to have a representative from one of these agencies speak during the September meeting to answer questions.

Chairman Morris directed staff to have someone at the next meeting to present information. He asked Council members to be familiar with the Report and have questions ready.

#### **V. National Update**

Andrew Allen reported on his attendance at the CJJ conference in April and the FACJJ in May. He stated he observed a positive working relationship between the two entities.

Allen shared information gained regarding Capitol Hill visits, in particular when meeting with key legislative staff. The training identified ways to build relationships by focusing on two or three important points and partnering with legislators, enabling them to reach back to the state.

When meeting with staff, Allen shared Council information regarding brain development and opportunities for rehabilitation through diversion programs versus detention.

As a result of meeting with Senate staff and attending the two conferences, Allen noted mixed signals regarding reauthorization of the OJJDP Act. Senate staff sensed that reauthorization will stall and not pass this Session; this was also conveyed during the CJJ conference. However, members of the FACJJ were optimistic.

When meeting with Congressional staff, Allen discussed decreases in federal funding, the need for reauthorization and assignment of a permanent OJJDP administrator.

#### **VI. Council Budget**

Kile Beisner reported a remaining balance of \$7,673.80 for the Federal fiscal year that ends September 30, 2010. Expenses related to the Whispers & Screams conference and other future travel will be expended from that balance.

Morris thanked Beisner for her efforts in keeping the Council informed.

**Upcoming Travel: - Action**

Musel reviewed past practice regarding attendance at the Midwest CJJ conference. This year's conference will be held July 9-11. Morris offered to attend at his own expense if there was no other interest. Musel offered to contact Judge Stephen Clarke to solicit his interest in attending since Clarke serves on the CJJ Government Relations Committee.

**Andrew Allen moved to approve sending one staff and one Council member, seconded by Karen Jones. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

**VII. Compliance Monitoring Report**

Musel provided information regarding required compliance monitoring. He is currently visiting various facilities throughout the State to ensure compliance. He noted a number of small police departments have been eliminated and the duties absorbed by sheriffs offices.

**VIII. Position Papers & Informational Briefs: Table Updates – Action**

Musel provided information regarding a request to update data contained in one of the position papers. He asked the Council for their thoughts regarding the matter.

**After a brief discussion, there was consensus that the information should not be altered and that any new data should be brought to the attention of the full Council. Musel assured the group that any new information would be provided.**

**IX. DMC Resource Center & Cultural Competency Training RFP's – Action**

Vernon Johnson, Chairman of the GRANT Committee, thanked Committee members and staff (Jim Morris, Carl Smith, John Wauters, John Spinks, Vernon Johnson, Rita Ferneau, Dave Kuker, and Kile Beisner). He noted that the RFA and its relevant criteria began by supporting prior work in communities as well as developing an agenda to "move further down the road". After reviewing the applications, the Committee recommends no award be made in each category and that the two RFA's be reissued with specified amendments.

Dave Kuker commented that while multiple proposals were anticipated, only one proposal was received for each RFA. Each proposal was evaluated based upon a standardized set of grant criteria. During the review process, there was concern that more specific information was needed in each case before approval could be recommended. The group has chosen to reissue each RFA and include further clarification of the criteria.

A brief discussion was held regarding ways to open up the process to more applicants. Kuker reviewed the distribution lists with which the RFA's were shared. He noted that JJAC members can contact other potential applicants regarding the availability of the RFA's.

**Cultural Competency Training RFA:**

Kuker reported the University of Northern Iowa submitted the sole Cultural Competency Training proposal. In reviewing that application, the Committee had concerns regarding curricula development, qualifications, and experience related to the justice system.

John Wauters noted that the UNI response did not include examples or locations of past trainings and did not provide experience working with an audience in a juvenile justice setting. He was concerned that there was not enough information indicating that the applicant was already familiar with the juvenile justice arena and was able to hit the ground running on July 1. He felt it was important to obtain more specific information prior to making an award.

**DMC Resource Center RFA:**

There was only one applicant/proposal for the DMC Resource Center RFA—the University of Iowa, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. A particular focus of the RFA grant criteria related to the referral of youth from the school setting to juvenile court. Kuker noted Grant Committee concerns that the submitted proposal did not adequately address the “school to court” grant criteria. The submitted proposal included a number of different options from which the applicant might collect the required information. The Grant Committee noted that without a specified “school to court” response, it would be problematic to determine if the noted deliverables could be achieved. Therefore, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend reissuing the RFA based on the lack of specificity in the application. Other concerns included the staff, the duties listed, and who was best qualified to conduct the work.

Wauters shared concerns regarding “field research” compared to statistical information available in the State’s databases, and how that relates to the collection of data from the schools, juvenile court, law enforcement, drop out information, etc. He stated the University’s proposal was not clear enough regarding how the data would be collected. He also expressed the importance of reaching these audiences through the DMC conference.

Morris announced he would separate the Council vote into two separate recommendations. Vernon Johnson agreed.

**Morris stated as indicated in the Grant Review Committee’s recommendation, no award would be made to the applicant in the Cultural Competency RFA and that the RFA be re-issued with specified amendments discussed earlier (sample products, curriculum, specific past trainings, etc.).**

**There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and it was unanimous to adopt the Committee’s recommendation.**

**Morris stated as indicated in the Grant Review Committee recommendation, no award would be made to the applicant in the DMC Resource Center RFA and that the RFA be re-issued.**

Discussion included the following;

- Tony Reed asked if there was a backup plan. Stageberg responded that CJJP will provide resources, as much as possible, to the local sites in the interim. Morris commented there are groups who could provide technical assistance at the national level as well as our own expertise.
- Geoff Abelson asked about the expected outcome or products from the Resource Center RFP. Kuker responded there are a variety of different deliverables noted in the grant criteria, however, the main requirement is the collection of standardized information to local officials on how kids are referred (standardized reports from school data, arrest data, private provider data, juvenile court data). The second part of the school to court deliverable relates to documenting the process.

Other deliverables include specifying priorities with local officials, conducting an annual conference, and working with communities on best practices approaches.

- Andrew Allen asked about the timeline to reissue. Morris responded it hasn't been determined. Kuker noted he would want to reconvene the Committee and review the RFP's with the Attorney General's office.
- Tony Reed asked if there was specific language in the RFA that states no applicant is required to be approved. Kuker responded yes.

**Paul Kraus requested a substantive amendment and asked staff to develop a contingency plan if there are no additional applicants.**

**Vernon Johnson accepted the amendment on behalf of the committee. The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Steve Smith commended the committee for their efforts. Morris echoed Smith's comment.

#### **X. DMC Report**

In the absence of Wayne Clinton, Chair of the DMC Committee, Dave Kuker reported that the re-issuance of the RFA is the biggest investment in DMC. Combined with JDAI, it's the largest financial and staff commitment to these efforts.

#### **XI. JDAI Report**

Kuker reported on continued efforts and noted that JDAI continues in the three local sites (Polk, Woodbury, and Black Hawk Counties). A Detention Screening Instrument continues to be piloted in the three sites. He reminded the Council of previously approved funding for additional sites provided that additional funding was awarded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. No word has been received from the Foundation. Expansion of the JDAI effort would be aimed at metropolitan areas with significant minority populations.

#### **Implementation Committee Report**

Kuker reported the Committee is closely monitoring the progress of the Detention Screening Tool and use of alternatives to detention.

Local JDAI sites have been provided data collected from the Detention Screening Tool, which was recently redrafted. Issues include: probation violators not being screened, the collection of delinquency history may tend to affect risk scores of African American youth, and the inability to access criminal history information by field personnel.

With regard to public safety and probation violators, data collected from the first draft of the tool indicated less than 10% recidivism.

**XII. Gender Report**

In the absence of Lori Rinehart, there was no report. Chairman Morris noted that the Whispers & Screams conference was excellent. He attributed lower attendance to the economy. A committee will be evaluating the format of the conference.

**XIII. Unfinished Business**

Steve Smith reported that he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Council over the years. He applauded the recent work regarding adolescent brain development and noted the significance in understanding the dynamics of the adolescent brain. Morris and the Council thanked Smith for his service.

**XIV. New Business**

There was no new business to come before the Council.

**XV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held September 2, 2010, Polk County River Place, Conference Room 2.

**XVI. Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Kraus, seconded by Tony Reed. The motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary

Attachment